



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Bronna Kahle
Michigan House of Representatives
Room N-991, Cora B.
Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: HB 4356, a bill related to ocular telemedicine

Dear Chairperson Kahle:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over three and a half million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

I am writing to you today to express our support to HB 4356 (Meerman), a bill regarding ocular telemedicine. This legislation will allow online telemedicine platforms to function in the state that are overseen by eye doctor's (optometrist or ophthalmologist) licensed in the state.

Innovation in health care can reduce costs for consumers, while maintaining high-quality care. Many consumers do not have employer-sponsored vision coverage and pay over \$150 out of pocket to see an optometrist for an eye exam, which limits access to eye care for many consumers. Online vision testing and ocular telemedicine allow consumers access to a safe, affordable, convenient solution for necessary eye care.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, access to telehealth has never been more important. TechNet encourages state leaders to adopt smart, adaptive, and long-range strategies that foster innovation, enhance global competitiveness, promote job growth and retention, build highly skilled workforces, and provide improved services to constituents with successful, consumer-oriented models. This legislation fits in line with our values and therefore we strongly support its passage.

If you have any questions regarding TechNet's support for HB 5346 to this measure, please do not hesitate to contact me at 630-400-3439 or tdiers@technet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Diers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tyler Diers
Executive Director, Midwest
TechNet

Cc: Representatives Meerman and Brann